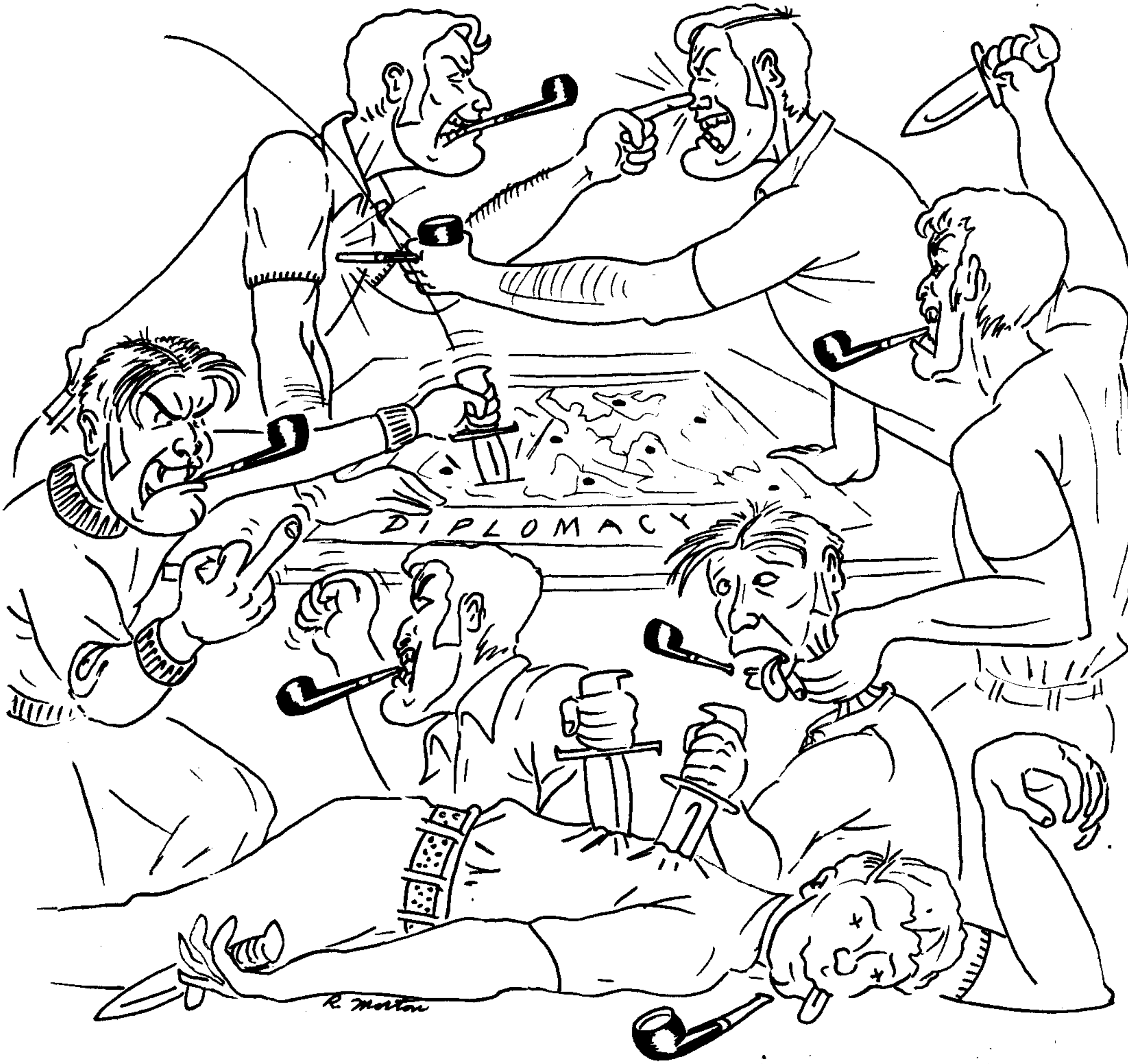
The Mixumaxu Gazette



THE MIXUMAXU GAZETTE is a triweekly publication of postal Diplomacy and whatnot, edited and published by Robert Bryan Lipton. Subscriptions are 10¢ per issue plus postage. Single issues are 25¢ generally, rising for large issues. Once again an address change has been made, this time to 556 Green Place, Woodmere, N.Y. 11598, telephone (516) 374-4723. Articles are solicited and paid for at the rate of $1.50 subscription credit per page; illustrations are also solicited at $2 per page.

A MIXUMAXU GAZETTE
QUANTITY PUBLICATION
143

Changes are in store for the readers of this magazine.

The first thing is that THE MIXUMAXU GAZETTE is now available in the finer wargaming establishments in New York. This means that single copies can be bought at THE BATTLEGROUND (71 Bleecker Street). This is a token of affluence? Class? Insanity on the parts of Tony Morale and David Levine? Who knows? In any case, both THE BATTLEGROUND and I will make small profits on this system, mine to be eaten up in buying an airmail stamp, theirs by people swiping copies.

The more observant among you may have noticed that the typeface used in this issue is different. Quite true. This is being typed on my very own IBM Selectric II typewriter. This marvellous machine will enable me to make substantial improvements in format, as soon as I can figure out how to prevent the lines from slipping. Sloppy, isn't it? Sometime next week I shall get in three "typing elements" which will permit me to change typeface in mid-word. Finally italics will no longer be indicated by underlining, but by honest-to-Ghu italics.

The next "change" is a plan for a special DUNGEONS&DRAGONS issue in the near future, probably issue #57. This will not (I can't wait for the italics) be an issue dedicated to tables of monsters and a mathematical comparison of the CalTech and IDE Spell Point Systems, but more general, philosophic articles, such as what reference works to use in designing your world. Articles especially for this issue are now being solicited. As usual, I reserve the right to laugh at, write nasty rejection slips on, and fold into paper airplanes all works which do not meet the low standards of this magazine. If you want to preserve your masterpiece from my cruel hands, a stamped, self-addressed envelope is recommended for articles which I have not requested.

However, even if I could work at this magazine 25 hours a day, I cannot hope to make any real improvement in it without some feedback from the readers. I cannot be expected to read your minds. And by feedback I do not mean such vague bits as "Your 53rd issue stank" or "C.S. Lewis is a great author!" Tell me why, damnit! I have been known to admit that I have been wrong on a couple of occasions. Besides, saying "#53 stank" does not give me any idea of how to improve the magazine. And I want very much to improve it, both for your entertainment and my egoboo.

This issue's cover is by the inimitable Captain Ralph L. Morton. This illo was originally intended for an interior page of the anniversary issue, but it arrived a little too late (like the day after I sent out the copies). Please write Ralph and tell him you think his best work is done for me. Get more covers on these pages.

Abyssinia,

Robert Bryan Lipton

Robert Bryan Lipton

ABCSF- XIX

ALAN E. NOURSE: About 20 years ago Nourse's agent said to him "Alan, instead of writing adult sf, write juveniles. The libraries buy them, and then the kids flush them down the toilets and the libraries have to buy new copies. Every six years you can take off and write adult books.

So Nourse gave up adult works and wrote juveniles. Competent juveniles to compare with Del Rey, not with Heinlein. And so Nourse made a nice living.

And the sixth year came around, and Nourse wrote an adult novel. Having the right to put M.D. after his name, he wrote a medical novel. And the novel was sold to tv for a series. All of which doubtless has some moral, but I sure as Hell don't know what it is.

In between those juveniles, Nourse has turned out a few excellent fantasy shorts, such as "Tiger By The Tail," and an occasional adult sf novel such as THE BLADERUNNERS. Mostly, however, he has concentrated on juvenile sf with a medical bent. As with most juvenile sf, his stories rarely leave the Solar System. Unhappily, most of the science in his works has been badly dated by the march of science in the past 20 years. Only his fantastic works, such as THE UNIVERSE BETWEEN bear reading anymore.

WILLIAM F. NOLAN: is a writer of sci-fi. Not science fiction. Not sf. Not fantasy. No, Nowlan writes sci-fi. He is camp. I remember, at the age of 12, working on a novel with the same theme as LOGAN'S RUN, abandoning it because the plot was stupid and the characters were too unbelievable. After LOGAN'S RUN appeared on the screen, I reread my scraps and looked at the novel. My work was better. Ghu!

EDGAR PANGBORN: In the 1950s and 1960s three or four brilliant sf writers appeared, wrote for a decade, then disappeared. Daniel Keyes is one. He wrote FLOWERS FOR ALGERNON, disappeared, then reappeared with THE TOUCH, which was lousy. Walter Miller wrote A CANTICLE FOR LIEBOWITZ and where has he been? Edgar Pangborn graced us with A MIRROR FOR OBSERVERS, waited ten years, produced DAVY, and still trickles forth occasional good works. Is it possible he is a pseudonym? For whom?

A MIRROR FOR OBSERVERS is a confused story about Martians observing the Earth, waiting, with compassion and terror, for humanity to mature. DAVY is the reminiscences of a travelling rogue of an after-the-holocaust Earth. Both have stupid-sounding plots. Both are brilliantly written. My poor words cannot do justice. You must read the books.

ALEXIS PANSHIN: Panshin won several awards for his first novel, RITE OF PASSAGE, which in the correct words of John Boardman, is the best Heinlein novel Panshin has ever written. Since then Panshin has written a series for Ace Books about a nobleman of the Galaxy, Anthony Villiers, and a study on Heinlein, HEINLEIN IN DIMENSION, which is excellent.

EMIL PETAJA: Petaja's been writing sf since the early 1940s. Since the death of Hannes Bok, Petaja has been his chief proponent, starting up Sisu Press to do for Bok what Derleth did for Lovecraft.

In his sf novels, Petaja has been translating the KALEVALA into stfnal terms in such short novels as THE STAR MILL and TRAMONTANE. Minor and egotistical, Petaja will be unknown ten years after his death, save for his association with Bok, who was one of the greatest fantasy artists of the century.

NEXT ISSUE: Alexander M. Phillips! (Who?)

DEAR RB

JOEL KLEIN ((Apt. 507-1, Englehart Hall, 1915 Maple Avenue, Evanston, Ill. 60201)): I have received MG 53, and I read the report of game 1975 J with considerable irritation. Therefore, let me point out a few facts:

1: I was simply removed from this game. You simply put Germany into civil disorder, even though I had written about 1975 IN specifically, but also 1975 J. The implication was clear that I had no intention of dropping; this was confirmed by my last letter requesting confirmation of resignation. It was my intention to make no noise; but now

2: What the hell is John Rubins doing as Germany? If I had been aware that you bounced between c.d. and players there is no way I would have resigned or dropped from the game, and you most certainly know that. In fact, upon reflection, when you received my protest letter, you had the right to order my units to hold, and NMR was an accurate statement, but removal indicates you expect the player not to continue. If I write a heated letter, that is certainly not my intention.. And I can't believe you would get technical and say "two consecutive misses" especially since you called for no standby. This won't wash. If Rubins is allowed to retain the position, then I should not have been removed: in fact, I should by right continue in the position, because if I continued as long as I did I certainly had no intention to drop. And you knew this too.

3:What is it with this smart-assed "Sour greps"? You have a real short memory. I wouldn't particularly care except that since you are the publisher it gives the statement an air of legitimacy. Do you recall why you waived the 1975 IN gamefee? Do you recall the stink I made because of Drew's actions? That's real clever, when you get in the last word. May I point out that not only did I not slander anything or anybody, but my statement is totally accurate: If Drews did what he wanted, and Gross admitted it was contrary to what he wanted, then it is accurate to say that John had no control over his replacements' actions. So would you tell me exactly on what basis you made that brilliant comment?

4: I notice I am now a subscriber. Is this because I am out of 1975 J period, or because of the murky manner in which I left? If it is the latter, and the sub would otherwise continue until the game ended (whether the player is eliminated or not, so long as he doesn't disappear) then I suggestthat I should continue in the sub, because I certainly have no intention of dispappearing.

I cannot understand why you've started acting in this manner, unless I'm not allowed to complain about the fact I nmred and couldn't believe it.

I hope you can find time in your busy schedule to grace me with some explanation..

((You do sarcasm very badly.

((The whole thing boils down to one essential point: you missed two moves in a row. In your letter you speak several times of intentionality. This is fine, except that as gamesmaster I am not supposed to judge intentions. I am supposed to transcribe the orders and list exactly what happens. The only options I am permitted are whether I should call all the players the evening before the deadline (and I have been unable to get a phone number for you in Illinois, Joel) and whether I should call for a substitute (I usually don't for 1- and 2- unit positions, unless I judge them to be tactically crucial). If I used "intentionality" as a basis, I should never have replaced Matt Diller in 1974 IJ. After all, he had 17 centers when he was removed, didn't he? Why should I remove him for missing moves when it's obvious he wants to play- but I removed him. Using intentionality as a basis, I should alter each player's moves to conform

to the tactical optimum for their strategies. That is, after all, what they intended, wasn't it? Since I do not use intentionality as a criterion, whenever a player has missed two consecutive moves, he is dropped. If I let your record read as resigned, that is simply something nice on my part.

((I usually do not call for standbys for extremely tiny positions because they are a waste of the players' time, usually, and I don't wish to reduce my tiny list of standbys for something worthless. However if someone wants the position, then a played position is always better than a civil disorder position.

((Because you missed two moves in a row, your gamelength subscription was ended. It has now been transferred to Rubinsi

((My little release was made because I thought it was a clever pun. I understand the difference between serious and solemn, but most people don't, so my serious statements are usually solemn.

((As a final note, readers should be warned. There is a vaste difference between my meanness-for-humor and my meanness-for-getting-rid-of-someone. I hold particular antipathy for paranoids who feel that I am out to get them. I usually am.))

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TOKA THE TOWN

1: Until 1969 there was a science fiction book shop in New York on 3rd Avenue and 12th Street run by Stephen Takacs. Then Stephen converted to a purely mail-order business, and for a few years there was no place but the mail-order catalogues one could go to to buy the collector's items such as the Arkham House books.

Then the SF Book Shop opened on 8th Avenue, just below 14th Street. Finally, when one decided one was interested in buying something from one of the specialty publishers, one was not left with the choice of waiting until a convention, or ordering a pig in a poke through the mails (and anyone who has ever dealt with Mirage Press through the mails will tell you they are honest and turn out an excellent product, but Jack Chalker, who runs Mirage, is likely to forget about your order for a few years).

There have been a few difficulties with the SF Book Shop. British books are available there, but for $2 each, for items which retail at the equivalent of 80¢ in Britain. Duty is one thing and markup another, but this is ridiculous.

However, the capitalistic spirit has raised its head, and there is another shop specializing in sf. It is *Science & Fantasy* at 239 E. 53rd St. (Take the IND to 53rd and Lexington; the shop is on the north side of the street.

They are still building up their stock, and there is naturally a great deal of competition from the SF Book Shop, but *Science & Fantasy* seems to want to give people a run for their money. Almost all of the american sf paperbacks are available, and the hardcovers are at a 20% discount. That chops more than a dollar off of most books, and in some cases, a couple of bucks. All of which shows that Adam Smith was right; competition gives a better price for the buyer.

There is also a sizeable number of out-of-print paperbacks for 50¢ (the rarer ones are more expensive. The Lancer Conans are going for $2-$3), and in the back some moon globes and art posters.

The store is open most days; the telephone number, in case you want to make sure an item is there before you buy it, is (212) 759-2133. Drop in, at least to browse.

BOOM

Three years ago, during a collation session at John Boardman's, after all the issues of GRAUSTARK and FREEDONIA had been collated and mailed, we settled down for some games. No one was interested in playing Origins , and enough of us were broke to make poker untenable. So John brought out a dog-earred set of cards and announced we would play NUCLEAR WAR. During the course of the game we all became enamored of the game, and put on the Tom Lehrer album with "We Will All Go Together When We Go."

The game had been put out privately in the mid-sixties, and had been let go out of print. Happily, The Flying Buffalo, Inc., Box 1467, Scottsdale, Az. 85252 , has reissued it.

Nuclear War is a simple card game. You are dealt "Population Cards" which can give you as many as one hundred million people, or as few as six million. You are then dealt various Secret, Propaganda, Missile, Warhead and Anti-Missile cards. Using these you attempt to steal and destroy the other players' population cards. If you are wiped out you can usually pay back by a Massive Retaliation, throwing all your missiles at whomever you wish in an attempt to take someone with you.

There are three clear goals to a game of Nuclear War.

The primary goal is to land a nuclear warhead of one hundred megatons on a nuclear stockpile, thereby initiating a chain reaction in the Earth's mass, destroying the Solar System and, as a byproduct, all of the countries in the game.

The secondary goal of the game is to plan your strategy so that no one survives the game. This can be done by clever placing of your Massive Retaliations.

The tertiary goal is to be the last surviving country at the end of the game. As long as you have one million people and no one else has any, you have won. This can be slightly grotesque when you started with 93,000,000 and ended with 3,000,000 (as happened to me one game).

Nuclear War is a dirtily fun game. The cards are whimsically written. Take for example, "Top Secret: 25 MILLION of the enemy's population mysteriously vaporized!" How were they vaporized? No one knows.

Among the more amusing aspects of the game is wiping yourself out, and then massively retaliating ("A Violent tornado has resulted in the loss of 10 million of my population. I am now massively retaliating against you." "But I didn't do it!" "Do you want me to waste this 50 megaton bomb?")

Nuclear War is not, obviously, a complex wargame to rank with War in the East or USN. It is an amusing way to spend an hour or so.

The graphics of the game are very good You get one hundred cards, a spinner to tell you exactly what those bombs you planted on your friend did, and the rules for $5. A problem with the game is the printing on the cards. The cards have been done by some xerographic method on slick stock, with the unhappy result that the lettering on the cards tends to rub off, along with that beautiful profile of the B-70 bomber. Rick Loomis said at Origins II, however, that a better printing method would have meant a higher price. For $5 you're still getting a helluva deal.

TOKA THE TOWN

2: The laughable *Best of* series that Barry Malzberg has been editing for Pocket Books (*Best of Keith Laumer, Best of Barry Malzberg and Best of Harry Harrison* are three of the immortal collections) has finally struck paydirt, with *The Best of Poul Anderson* (with "Murphy's Hall," "Sam Hall" and "The Longest Voyage," and *The Best of Damon Knight*. Pick up these two.

1972 EJ — *ANGLO-GERMAN ALLIANCE RESTORED* — *Spring 1908*

Errors last issue include the non-notice of the German A Venice and permitting Ron to build F Kie when he had A Kie. They are corrected.

AUSTRIA (Dennis Klein)
A Gre-Ser
A Bud S A Gre-Ser
A Pie-Tyr
A Mun-Boh
A Rom H (retreats- Tus, ann)
F Nap-Ion
F Ion-Eas

ENGLAND (Henry Kelley)
A Apu-Rom
F Tyr S A Apu-Rom
F Tun-Ion
F NAf-Tun
F Wes S F Tyr
A Pie-Mar (no such unit)
F Lyo S A Pie-Mar
F Mid H
A Mar, unordered, H

GERMANY (Ronald M. Kelly)
A Ven S ENGLISH A Apu-Ven
A Bur-Mun
A Bel-Ruh
A Ber-Sil
F Den-Kie
A Nwy-StP
A Swe H
A Mos-Ukr
A War S A Mos-Ukr
A Kie-Ber

RUSSIA (John Hulland)
F Sev-Bla
A Bul-Arm
A Ser-Rum
A Ukr H (retreats-Gal, Sev, ann)

You see why you shouldn't phone in last minute move changes, Dennis? Fall 1908 moves are due by noon, Friday, 10 September 1976.

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1975 IN — *DRANG NACH WESTEN* — *Spring 1904*

ENGLAND (Richard Kovalcik Jr.)
A Yor-Yor
F Nth-Edi
F Nwy-Nth
F Lvp H

FRANCE (Joel Klein)
A Bel-Ruh
A Gas-Bur
A Cly-Edi
F Mid-Iri
F NAt-Nrg
F Eng S F Mid-Iri

GERMANY (David Hansen)
A Ber H (annihilated)
F Hel-Nth
F Den-Bal
A Kie S A Ber
A Hol H

ITALY (Zane Parks)
A Tyr H
A Ven A S Tyr
F Ion H

RUSSIA (Dennis Klein)
A Gal-B-h
A Vie S A Gal-Boh
A Pru-Ber
A Sil S A Pru-Ber
F Bal-Kie
F Swe-Den
F Nrg-NAt

TURKEY (Paul Novak)
A Tri H
A Bud S A Tri
A Gre-Alb
A Ser S A Gre-Alb
F Smy-Eas
F Aeg S F Smy-Eas
F Con-Bul(sc)
F Ank-Con

Address change: Paul Novak is now at 612-2 Graduate House East, West Lafayette, Ind. 47906. Fall 1904 moves are due by noon, Friday, 10 September 1976.

1975 AY — *TURKEY MISSES AND DOESN'T* — *Winter 1907-Spring 1908*

WINTER 1907: *GERMANY:* Build A Kie, A Ber *TURKEY:* Build F Smy

FRANCE (Tom Kissner)
A Bre-Pic
A Par S ITALIAN A Mar-Bur
F Nrg S ITALIAN F Eng-Nth
F Iri-Eng

GERMANY (John Rubins)
F Nth C A Lon-Nwy (retreats to a buncha places)
A Lon-Nwy
F StP(sc)-Bot
A Lvn-StP
A Yor-Lvp
F Lvp-Wal
A Pic-Par
A Ruh S A Mun-Bur
A Mun-Bur
A Kie S A Ber-Mun
A Ber-Mun

ITALY (John Brennick)
F Eng-Nth
F Mid S FRENCH F Iri-Eng
F Wes & F Tyr H
A Tyr & A Boh S TURKISH A Sil-Mun
A Tri-Ven
A Vie-Tri

TURKEY (David Hertz) NMR!
F Smy, A War, A Mos, A Sil, A Gal, A Rum, A Ukr, F Ion & F Aeg all H

Dave had sent in his Winter builds with his Fall moves, so they were here but his Spring moves were not forthcoming. Will Bert van den Boogaard, 6609 93A Avenue, Edmonton, Alta. CANADA T6B 0X1 please submit standby moves for Turkey? Fall 1908 moves are due by Noon, Friday, 10 September 1976.

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MG XI — *FRANCE PULLS A BLANK* — *Spring 1902*

AUSTRIA (Zane Parks)
A Vie-Gal
A Bud S A Vie-Gal
F Tri-Alb
A Rum S A Vie-Gal
A Ser S A Rum
F Gre H

ENGLAND (Lawrence Lurio)
A Nwy H
F Den-Swe
F Lon-Nth
F Nrg-Bar
F Edi-Nrg

FRANCE (Eric von der Luft) NMR!
A Par, F Mar, F Por, A Spa & A Bur all H

GERMANY (Bert van den Boogaard)
F Ber-Bal
A Kie-Den
A Bel-Ruh
A Mun-Bur
F Hol-Bel

ITALY (James Starr)
A Ven-Tyr
A Nap-Tun
F Tyr C A Nap-Tun

RUSSIA (John Hulland)
F Bla-Arm
F Swe-Bot
A Sev S F Bla-Arm
A War-Mos
A Ukr-Rum

TURKEY (John Rubins)
A Bul S AUSTRIAN A Rum
F Con S F Ank-Bla
A Arm-Sev (retreats-Syr,Smy,ann)

Lawrwnce Lurio is once again at 126 Judson Avenue, Dobbs Ferry, N.Y. 10522. The deadline for Fall 1902 moves is Friday, noon, 10 September 1976. Will Mark Edwards, 170 West 73rd Street, Apt. 12C, New York, New York 10023 please submit standby moves for France?

1974 IJ — ENGLAND REARMS THE ISLAND — Winter 1909

AUSTRIA (Jeffrey Topper)
Build home in Marseilles
Has A Mar, House Marseilles

ENGLAND (~~Ray/Heuer~~Raymond E. Heuer)
Build F Edi
Has F Edi,, F Cly, F Lvp

FRANCE (Ronald M. Kelly)
Remove F NAt
Has F Eng, A Bur, F Nth, F Bel

ITALY (John Hendry)
Has F Rom, F Nap

RUSSIA (Paul Novak)
A Rom retreats-Apu
Build A Mos
Has A Apu, A Mos, F Nrg, F Nwy, F Ska, F Den, A Ruh, A Hol, A Mun, A Tri, A Bud, A Tyr, A Rum, A Sev, A Ukr, F Aeg.

TURKEY (Eric Verheiden)
Remove F Adr
Has F Bla, A Ser, A Arm, A Con, A Gre & A Bul.

John Hendry is now at 23 Phillips Street, Amherst, Mass.01002. Paul Novak has also moved, to 612-2 Graduate House East, West Lafayette, Ind. 47906. Spring 1910 moves are due by noon, Friday, 10 September 1976.

One of the players has complained that I installed Ray Heuer as England without announcing it, thus depriving players of a chance at prior negotiation. The reason I did that was that Paul Thomas was not dropped, but resigned. In such cases I try to get a player to replace immediately; the rationale is that there is always a player of record, who must know he is player of record and be given a chance to submit moves. Since Paul Thomas had resigned, for me to have no moves for England last season would have effectively meant there was no player of record. Since Paul did not submit a final set of moves, I felt it proper to offer Ray the option of making those moves. If he had agreed with the complainer, he could have refused to move any of his units, giving the other players a chance to negotiate before his first orders. Specious reasoning, perhaps, but the idea is correct.

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MASTERMIND — HOLLSHWANDNER MISSES — ROUND 3

	Kovalcik	*Hollshwandner*	*Hulland*	*Hansen*	*D. Klein*
Game 1	000		00	000	X00
Game 2	X0		0	0	XX0
Game 3	000		0000	X	00

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1975 EP — THE EAST COMBINES — Spring 1905

AUSTRIA (Ed Hollshwandner) NMR!
A War H

ENGLAND (Scott Uhrick)
A Ukr S GERMAN A Sev
A Edi-Lon
F Mid-Wes
F NAt-Mid
F Wal-Iri
F Lon-Eng
F Bre S GERMAN A Bel-Pic
F Tun-Tyr

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

FRANCE (John Rubins)
A Pic-Bel
A Par-Bur
A Mar S A Par-Bur

RUSSIA (Eric Verheiden)
A Bud-Gal
A Ser S ITALIAN A Rum

TURKEY (Howard Markowitz)
A Arm-Sev
F Bla S A Arm-Sev
A Con H

GERMANY (Richard J. Meyer)
A Bur-Mar (retreats-Ruh,Gas,ann)
A Spa S A Bur-Mar
A Bel-Pic
A Mun-Tyr
A Boh S A Mun-Tyr
A Sil S AUSTRIAN A War-Gal
A Ber-Mun
A Sev H (retreats- Mos,Ukr,ann)

ITALY (Douglas Hollingsworth)
A Pie S FRENCH A Mar
F Eas-Ion
F Aeg S F Eas-Ion
F Nap-Tyr
F Rom S F Nap-Tyr
A Rum S TURKISH A Arm-Sev
A Bul S A Rum
A Vie S RUSSIAN A Bud-Gal

Howard Markowitz is now at Box 354, SUNY at Albany, 1400 Washington Avenue, Albany, N.Y. 12222. Fall 1905 moves are due by noon, Friday, 10 Sept. 1976.

The Spendthrift: I think that I have met the greatest genius since Doug Beyerlein.

LONDON TIMES:: The People's Republic of Great Britain was pleased to hear of the People's revolt in Toadland, and hopes that the new order will deal swiftly with the imperialistic warleaders of the old dictatorship.

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1975 J — *This Is Confusing* — *Spring 1907*

AUSTRIA (John Hulland)
A Tri S A Tyr
A Tyr S A Boh
A Boh S A Vie-Gal
A Ser-Gre
A Bul S F Aeg-Con
F Aeg-Con
A Vie-Gal
A Rum S A Vie-Gal

FRANCE (Zane Parks)
A Spa H
A Bur-Gas
A Mun-Bur
F Eng-Mid
A Bel S A Mun-Bur
F Nth S A Bel
F Edi S F Nth
F Mid-NAf

GERMANY (John Rubins)
A Ruh S RUSSIAN A Ber-Mun

ITALY (Richard Kovalcik Jr.)
F Lyo S A Mar
F Wes S F Lyo
A Ven-Pie
F Rom-Tyr
A Mar H

RUSSIA (Cal White *vice* John Gross)
F Bla-Rum
A Arm-Sev
F Nwy-Stp(nc)
F Swe-Nwy
F Den S A Kie
A Kie S FRENCH A Mun
A Sil-War
A Ber-Sil

TURKEY (Ed Hollshwandner) NMR!
F Ank, A Smy hold
F Con annihilated

No standby for Turkey. Fall 1907 moves are due by noon, Friday, 10 September 1976. I hope to see you all then.

Saint Petersburg: Shit, Gross said this was a real good positio-. Wait 'til I get my hands on him! Grrrr...

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TOKA THE TOWN

3: You won't see it here: An article on the history of scab-collecting. Yecch. The thing is, I don't know who wrote it. The guy's Canadian and knows John Gross. Help get this off my hands.

ON THE IDA CONSTITUTION

Since *Origins II*, when the new IDA Constitution was drafted, a number of comments on it have appeared. It seems that the most vehemently opposed are the Canadian IDA members.

Their first objection is that the new constitution is vaguely written. I do not deny it is vague. The constitution was written vaguely on purpose. It is vague because it could therefore be a short constitution (which is an excellent idea) and it is vague so that the Council will not be hampered in its actions.

The point was raised that such vagueness leaves open the possibility of tyranny. The IDA Council could order whatever it desires, and all of the Hobby would be forced to obey.

This is arrant nonsense. If the Council acts stupidly, people will cease to renew their membership; they will cease to pay any attention to the IDA's edicts. In a small body, such as the Diplomacy Hobby, where acquiescence to any organization is voluntary, any IDA Council that tries to use its powers in an arbitrary fashion will find that power vanishing. The present Council has absorbed itself in matters of procedure to the exclusion of any sensible business. Therefore only one-third of the IDA's members will renew their membership. Therefore the IDA will cease to act as a major organization. This system of checks and balances is more effective than any written into the constitution, since it acts by means of the realities of hobby politics. If the IDA ceases to act as its members like, it loses those members.

The other major complaint from Canada is that the new constitution offers no guarantee that Canada will be adequately represented. This is quite true. There is no guarantee that Canada will have representatives on the Council. There is also no guarantee that the Central US will have reresentatives on the Council, nor New York, nor East Lansing Michigan. Since each member of the Council is elected by the membership at large, there is a danger that certain sectors of the hobby will dominate; that New York will have three Council members, or that San Diego will have two.

It must be remembered, however, that even if any area were to block-vote for a single candidate (a difficult thing to arrange, as I shall show later) that would not be enough;, since no one section of North America has anywhere near a majority of the members. No section could put up whoever it liked and expect him to win unless he was believed to be of some worth by the rest of the hobby.

Two years ago, Nick Ulanoc tried to get a block vote in New York.He sent out form letters to various New Yorkers. Since we New Yorkers were so wise and influential, the letter claimed, and since we controlled so many votes in the IDA elections, why didn't we decide who we wanted to vote for in the upcoming election, and then we'd all vote the same way. Just send Nick your preferences and he would count them and let New York know its concensus. I don't think anyone bothered to reply. Thus ended Nick's attempt to become a machine politician.

As a general rule, the IDA elects its most eminent members to the Council. One Canadian's suggestion that there be a special representative for Canada on the Council is ridiculous. Why not a special representative for the Midwest or New York or East Lansing. At the IDA General Meeting Bob Sacks insisted that there be a Variants Secretary on the new Council. If we follow this sort of reasoning, the IDA needs over a hundred representatives to make sure that everyone in Upper Sandusky who is interested in rating systems for Utter Chaos Diplomacy will be properly represented.

Insane, is it not? The number five was picked simply because if anyone wants to bring something before the Council's attention he can simply make five carbon copies and send one off to each member of the Council.

By the time you read this, it will be too late to do anything about the new constitution. It was either be accepted or rejected. But consider: the present setup of the IDA makes it nearly impossible to conduct useful business. One of the bills presently before the Council is a procedural bill on how the Council should handle procedural bills! The new constitution poseses the twin benefits of simplicity (it's only one page, remember) and adaptability (the "vagueness" complained of by the Canadians). It is a step backwards in terms of cooperation with Europe (but then the European member of the Council has turned his vote over to a four-man committee. This committee has decided that since under the present circumstances their council cannot discuss each bill before voting, that the European vote will be cast as simply "Debate" in the future), but it leaves open the possibility of international cooperation. It raises the possibility of a particular group being unrepresented, but it makes sure that that New York cannot control the Atlantic region, and that there will be general approval of each officeholder.

Finally, under the new constitution, the IDA will be able to do things. The present constitution, as it has been interpreted since Edi Birsan stepped down, has been interpreted in a hand-tying fashion.

Quite frankly, if the old constitution is not overthrown, if the new constitution is defeated, I shall join the 60+ per cent of the IDA membership that will not renew its membership.

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Mystery of the issue: Who is Clara Maass? She looks like an upstairs maid. Well, it was the only commemorative stamp at the Post Office.



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page _____

X Did you know that according to the latest *Who's Where* (from Mick Bullock, 14 Nursery Avenue, Halifax, W. Yorkshire, HX3 5SZ United Kingdom, don't send pounds, for Crissakes) the most active player in England is Ronald M. Kelly? Did you care?

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